

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 October 1967



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LATE ITEM

Soviet Union

Early this morning, the Soviets launched what appears to be another unmanned Soyuz-type spacecraft. We suspect there will be an attempt to rendezvous with the Soyuz capsule now in orbit. All this looks very much like a dress rehearsal for a manned event, perhaps within the next few days.

DAILY BRIEF
30 OCTOBER 1967

1. North Vietnam

Phuc Yen airfield appears to be back in service, at least for limited fighter operations. A first look at high-altitude photography from a mission flown early Saturday morning shows all craters on the main runway filled and the runway apparently usable. Intercepted messages scheduling MIG-17 flights out of Phuc Yen on Saturday and Sunday back up the evidence in the photography.

While fighters may be able to land and take off from Phuc Yen, there are not many left around to do so. Judging from the photography, there may have been only six MIGs in North Vietnam capable of getting into the air Saturday morning. The weekend flight schedules out of Phuc Yen indicate some of those have gone to China.

Aside from one bomb crater in the area, there was no visible damage to the Hanoi power plant. No smoke, however, was coming from any of the boiler-house stacks.

The Canal des Rapides and Lang Son bridges were both heavily damaged, with spans destroyed.

2. Soviet Union

The Soviets have made no attempt to bring down the unmanned Soyuz-type spacecraft they launched on Friday.

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3. Soviet Union

On Saturday the Soviets had another successful test of their fractional orbit bombardment weapon, the SS-X-6. The payload made nearly a full revolution around the earth before it was brought down in the Soviet Union. This shot is the seventh success in a row.

4. South Vietnam

Thieu is still revising his inaugural address, but he intends to steer clear of using the speech to commit his government to a detailed set of goals. He told an American official on Saturday that the Vietnamese people have listened to too many speeches loaded with promises later broken. Thieu said his address would be brief and touch only lightly on general policies.

Thieu hopes to get the new cabinet installed about 3 November, and at that time he plans to issue a statement outlining government programs for the next four years.

There is still some chance that the militant Buddhists may try to embarrass the government during the inauguration

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5. Jordan

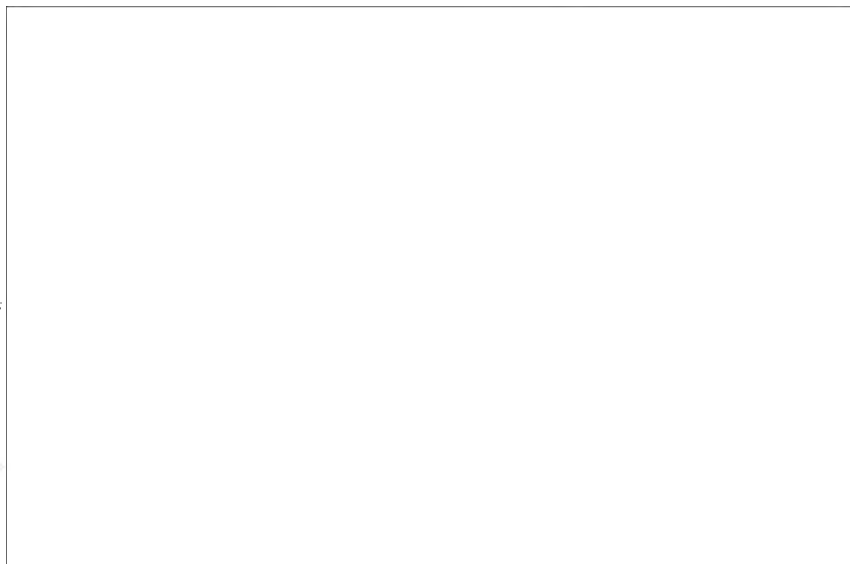
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6. France

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Rehashes "Week of Protest": Hanoi radio on 25 October carried commentary on antiwar activities in the US during the 15-21 October "week of protest" for the benefit of its domestic audience. It called antidraft activities of American youth "most remarkable," and went on to note specific events across the country.

The broadcast said "our people highly appreciate the strenuous struggle of the American people" against the war and consider it a "precious contribution to our fight against the US aggressors." By "coordinating our efforts on two fronts, we will certainly defeat... the US ruling clique in Vietnam."

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Hanoi on Recent US Antiwar Events: Hanoi's international broadcast on 28 October covered several recent manifestations of US opposition to the war, but without commentary. The broadcast noted a peace march in Hawaii on 22 October, the hunger strike of some of the Pentagon demonstrators, the release of folk singer Joan Baez from an Oakland jail, and US student protests against the Dow Chemical Company for making napalm for use in Vietnam.

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Hanoi on Vice President's Trip to Saigon: In a sarcastic commentary, a Hanoi broadcast in Vietnamese to South Vietnam ridicules Vice President Humphrey's trip and hints darkly that he will be in danger. The broadcast says "other people have reminded" the Vice President that there are "not only rotten eggs and tomatoes in Vietnam but some terrible things,"

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and that "people should take precautions." The broadcast concludes by warning that "Mr. Humphrey had better be ready to get away quickly, for, who knows, this thorny land might be the place to bury not only his reputation but his career."

This is standard stuff for such a visit.

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Liberation Front Praises US Antiwar Group: Hanoi radio's international service on 28 October reports on a message sent by the chief of the National Liberation Front congratulating the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam on the "week of protest." The Front's message praises the "valiant struggle" in the US as an "active contribution to the South Vietnamese people's struggle for national independence and peace." It condemns US authorities for "repressing" the struggle and for "strangling" democratic freedoms in the US. The message promises that the Communists will "unite closely with progressive people in North America to compel the US government to end its aggression in South Vietnam."

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